IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD

SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION No 9541 of 2002

For Approval and Signature:

Hon'ble MR.JUSTICE P.B.MAJMUDAR

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1. Whether Reporters of Local Papers may be allowed to see the judgements? : NO

2. To be referred to the Reporter or not? : NO

3. Whether Their Lordships wish to see the fair copy of the judgement? : NO

4. Whether this case involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution of India, 1950 of any Order made thereunder? : NO

5. Whether it is to be circulated to the concerned Magistrate/Magistrates,Judge/Judges,Tribunal/Tribunals? : NO

NATUBHAI ALIAS JUNGAD MAGANBHATHAKOR

Versus

STATE OF GUJARAT

Appearance:

1. Special Civil Application No. 9541 of 2002

MS SUBHADRA G PATEL for Petitioner No. 1

MR MK PATEL, AGP for Respondent No. 1-3

CORAM : MR.JUSTICE P.B.MAJMUDAR

Date of decision: 05/02/2003

ORAL JUDGEMENT

#. By filing this petition, the petitioner-detenu has challenged his detention order dated 19.6.2002. By the impugned order, the petitioner-detenu is detained in exercise of the powers under section 3(2) of the Gujarat Prevention of Antisocial Activities Act,1985 (hereinafter referred to as "the PASA" for short), as, the detaining

authority found that the detenu is a "dangerous person" and is required to be detained under the preventive detention, so that, he may not continue with such type of dangerous activities.

#. Along with the detention order, the detenu was also served with the grounds of detention. As per the same, the detaining authority found that the petitioner is a communal minded person and two criminal cases, being CR No.76 of 2002 and CR No.132 of 2002 are filed against him. It is alleged against the petitioner that, he is beating the people of other community and is creating atmosphere of fear and because of his illegal activities, the people in the area are afraid of him. It is mentioned in the detention order that, in connection with the aforesaid two criminal cases, the petitioner is already arrested by the police and he is in judicial custody as under trial prisoner. The detaining authority, however, found that the petitioner is likely to be released on bail at any time after filing the bail application.

#. At the time of hearing of this petition, it is argued by the learned advocate for the petitioner that, the detaining authority has not stated as to why it is necessary to detain the petitioner under the preventive detention even though the petitioner is in custody. Therefore, the detaining authority has merely stated that the petitioner is likely to be released on bail when there is no material in that connection. It is submitted that, the detaining authority, at least, was required to mention in the order about his satisfaction as to how the petitioner is likely to be released on bail. For that purpose, learned advocate has relied upon the decision of the Apex Court in the case of Amritlal and other Vs. Union Government, reported in AIR 2000 SC 3675, wherein the Apex Court in paras 4, 5 and 6 observed as under.:

> "4. In Augustin's decision (1994 Supp (1) SCC 597) (supra) this Court also placed strong reliance on an earlier but oft-cited decision of this Court in Binod Singh v. District Magistrate, Dhanbad, (1986) 4 SCC 416 : (AIR 1986 SC 2090 : 1986 CriLJ 1959) wherein it was held that if a person is in custody and there is no imminent possibility of his being released therefrom, the power of detention should not ordinarily be exercised. This Court held that there must be cogent materials before the officer passing the detention order that the detenu is likely to be released on bail. The inference

must be drawn from the available material on record and must not be the ipse dixit of the officer passing the order of detention. It is in this perspective as above, that the recording of the concerned officer in the matter under reference ought to be noticed and the same reads as below:-

"Even though prosecution proceedings under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 have been initiated against Shri Amritlal I am satisfied that there is compelling necessity in view of the likelihood of his moving an application for bail and in the event of his being granted bail, the likelihood of his indulging in illicit traffic in narcotic drugs as is evident from the trend of his activities, to detain him under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988."

5. It is this reasoning which the learned advocate contended that the High Court should have held to be completely erroneous in the matter of being the basis of an order of detention.

6. The requirement as noticed above in Binod Singh's case (AIR 1986 SC 2090 : 1986 Cri LJ 1959) (supra) that there is `likelihood of the petitioners being released on bail' that however is not available in the reasonings as provided by the concerned officer. The reasoning available is the `likelihood of his moving an application for bail' which is different from `likelihood to be released on bail'. This reasoning, in our view, is not sufficient compliance with the requirements as laid down."

#. It is submitted by the learned advocate for the petitioner that, even otherwise looking to the seriousness of criminal cases for which the petitioner is in judicial custody, it cannot be said that the petitioner is likely to be released on bail, as, normally, in such cases, the courts are not granting the bail so easily to the accused. It is submitted by Mr.Patel, learned AGP, that looking to the gravity of the offence for which the petitioner is booked, it cannot be easily inferred that, in such cases, the petitioner may get the bail from the competent Court.

#. It is, no doubt, true that the detaining authority has not stated as to on what material, it has come to the conclusion that the petitioner is likely to be released on bail in connection with the aforestated criminal cases, for which, the petitioner is in judicial custody. Considering the fact that the detaining authority has merely mentioned that the petitioner is likely to be released on bail without discussing anything further in this behalf and in view of the aforestated judgment of the Apex Court, the order of detention is required to be quashed and set aside.

#. In view of what is stated above, the petition is allowed. The order of detention dated 19.6.2002 is quashed and set aside. The detenu Natubhai alias Jangad Maganbhai Thakore is ordered to be set at liberty forthwith if he is not required in any other case. Rule is made absolute accordingly. Direct service is permitted.

(P.B.Majmudar,J)
(pathan)